

CHAPTEE

XXX. 1813—

1814.

Prince Eugene and the affairs of Italy —The Army of Italy on the frontiers of Austria—Eugene's regret at the defection of the Bavarians —Murat's dissimulation and perfidy— His treaty with Austria—Hostilities followed by a declaration of war —Murat abandoned by the French generals — Proclamation from Paris—Murat's success — Gigantic scheme of Napoleon —Napoleon advised to join the Jacobins—His refusal —Armament of the National Guard —The Emperor's farewell to the officers —The Congress of Clatillon — Refusal of an armistice — Napoleon's character displayed in his negotiations — Opening of the Congress —Discussions—Rupture of the conferences.

I SHALL now proceed to notice the affairs of Italy and the principal events of the Viceroyalty of Eugene. In order to throw together all that I have to say about the Viceroy I must anticipate the order of time.

After the campaign of 1812, when Eugene revisited Italy, he was promptly informed of the more than doubtful dispositions of Austria towards France. He then made preparations for raising an army capable of defending the country which the Emperor had committed to his safeguard. Napoleon was fully aware how much advantage he would derive from the presence on the northern frontiers of Italy of an army sufficiently strong to harass Austria, in case she should draw aside the transparent veil which still covered her policy. Eugene did all that depended on him to meet the Emperor's wishes ; but in spite of his efforts the army of Italy was, after all, only an imaginary army to those who could compare the number of men actually enrolled with the numbers stated in the lists. When, in July, 1813, the Viceroy was informed of the turn taken by the negotiations at the shadow of a Congress assembled at Prague, he had no longer any doubt of the renewal of hostilities; and foreseeing an attack on Italy he resolved as speedily as possible to approach the frontiers of Austria. He